

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims to appear as follows. Please note that all claims pending in the application are presented here in clean form for clarity and a marked up version of the claim amendments is attached.

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1. (Amended) A method for increasing immune competence of an animal, said method comprising inducing calcitriol synthesis in said animal wherein said animal is selected from a group of poultry or pigs.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising feeding said animal a food capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein said food is supplemented or enriched with a substance capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein said substance comprises a phyto-estrogen.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein said substance is derived from a leguminous seed.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said leguminous seed is soy.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein also phytate degradation capacity of said animal is increased.

8. (Amended) A method for preparing pig or poultry feed for increasing immune competence and/or phytate degradation capacity of pigs or poultry comprising supplementing or enriching a pig or poultry feed with a substance capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said substance comprises a phyto-estrogen.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said substance is derived from a leguminous seed.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said leguminous seed is soy.

Please cancel claim 12, without prejudice or disclaimer.

13. (Amended) A supplement for an animal food suitable for increasing immune competence and/or phytate degradation capacity of an animal comprising a substance capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.

14. (Amended) The supplement of claim 13, wherein said substance comprises a phyto-estrogen.

15. (Amended) An animal food comprising a supplement of claim 13.

16. A pig or poultry food enriched for a substance capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.

Please cancel claim 17, without prejudice or disclaimer.

18. (Amended) A method for increasing immune competence and/or phytate degradation of an animal selected from the group consisting of pig and poultry comprising feeding said animal a food according to claim 16.

Please cancel claims 19, 20 and 21, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

22. (New) A method of reducing the dietary intake of antibiotics of an animal comprising  
administering to said animal a food comprising a substance capable of inducing calcitriol synthesis.
23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein said substance comprises a phyto-estrogen.
24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said substance is derived from a leguminous seed.
25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said seed is soy.